

SERMON

LUKE - ACTS

SERIES





LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS



HEAD

- ✚ In Jesus' mission to seek and save the least, last, and lost – He is willing to touch the untouchables of our world, and so should we.
- ✚ It doesn't take great faith to move the omnipotent, all powerful arm of God, it only requires a small, palpable belief in the ability of our God.
- ✚ Jesus models perfectly how Reigning **for** the Father leads to Renewing **with** the Father with the goal of Relating **to** the Father.

– Luke 5:12-16 –



HEART

- ✚ (1) The leper violated the social and religious code of his day by approaching Jesus without announcing himself and without keeping the required distance – in what ways might God be calling you to break from social convention or personal comfort in order to pursue an encounter with him?
- ✚ (2) The sermon highlights that the leper expressed belief without bravado, saying “if you are willing, you can make me clean” rather than demanding healing – how does this posture of humble confidence challenge the way you typically bring your requests before God?

– Luke 5:12-16 –



HEART

✚ (3) Research on the science of touch demonstrates that physical contact is essential not just for emotional well-being but for neurological, cardiovascular, and immune health – how does understanding the biological necessity of touch deepen your appreciation for Jesus choosing to physically touch the leper when he had no obligation to do so?

– Luke 5:12-16 –



HEART

✚ (4) Jesus became ceremonially unclean the moment he touched the leper, absorbing the man's social and spiritual stigma – who are the 'untouchables' in your life or community, and what would it cost you personally to reach out and touch their brokenness?

– Luke 5:12-16 –



HEART

✚ (5) The leper had to first hear about Jesus and then believe what he heard before he ever sought him out – reflecting on your own faith journey, what was the relationship between what you knew about God and what you eventually came to believe about him?

– Luke 5:12-16 –



HEART

✚ (6) The sermon notes that the rabbis considered curing leprosy to be as difficult as raising someone from the dead, and Josephus called lepers 'walking corpses' – in what areas of your life have you felt spiritually or emotionally like a walking corpse, and how does Jesus' willingness to touch the leper speak to those places?

– Luke 5:12-16 –



HEART

- ✚ (7) Jesus commanded the healed man to tell no one, yet the man told everyone – do you think the man's disobedience should be **condemned** or **commended**, and what does your answer reveal about how you understand the tension between obedience and gratitude?
- ✚ (8) The sermon draws a parallel between the social terror of leprosy in the Ancient World and the fear and stigma surrounding the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s – what modern conditions or social categories carry a similar kind of stigma today, and how should the church respond?

– Luke 5:12-16 –



HEART

✚ (9) Jesus regularly withdrew to deserted places to pray even as his popularity and the demands on him grew – what does his practice of solitude reveal about the relationship between effective ministry and intimate communion with the Father, and where does your own life reflect or fall short of this rhythm?

– Luke 5:12-16 –



HEART

✚ (10) The sermon presents a model of Reigning, Renewing, and Relating as essential rhythms of a healthy spiritual life – which of these three rhythms is most neglected in your current season, and what would it look like to restore balance?

– Luke 5:12-16 –



HANDS

✚ Choose ONE of the following action steps:

✚ Option 1: **Touch the Untouchable**. Identify one person in your life – at work, in your neighborhood, in your family, or in your community – who feels invisible, marginalized, or beyond reach. Commit to one intentional act this week that communicates to them that they are seen, valued, and not alone.

– Luke 5:12-16 –



HANDS

✚ Choose ONE of the following action steps:

✚ Option 2: **Examine Your Faith**. Write down one area of your life where you need God to move but have stopped believing he is willing. Bring that need before God this week with the same posture as the leper: “Lord, I know you are able. If you are willing, make me clean.”

– Luke 5:12-16 –



HANDS

✚ Choose ONE of the following action steps:

✚ Option 3: **Tell Your Story**. Like the healed leper, you have a story of what God has done in your life. Who in your circle needs to hear it? Commit to sharing it with one person this week – not a polished testimony, just an honest account of what Jesus has done for you.

– Luke 5:12-16 –



HANDS

✚ Choose ONE of the following action steps:

✚ Option 4: **Restore Your Rhythm**. Using the Reigning, Renewing, Relating framework, do an honest audit of your week. Where are you over-extended? Where have you neglected rest? Where have you let important relationships go quiet? Make one concrete change to your schedule this week that honors the rhythm Jesus modeled.

– Luke 5:12-16 –



HANDS

✚ Choose ONE of the following action steps:

✚ Option 5: **Practice Solitude**. Set aside one block of time this week – even thirty minutes – to withdraw from noise and distraction and simply be with God. No agenda. No to-do list. Just presence.

– Luke 5:12-16 –





FIVE DAY DEVOTIONAL



Day 1: The God Who Draws Near

Reading: Luke 5:12-13

- ✚ **Devotional:** The leper in this passage had lost everything – his home, his family, his dignity, his place in worship. He was medically ruined, socially exiled, and spiritually declared unclean. Yet he did not hide from Jesus. He ran toward him. What is remarkable is not only that Jesus healed this man, but that Jesus reached out and touched him first. He did not have to. The healing power was in his word alone. But he chose to touch what everyone else refused to acknowledge. God does not merely fix our brokenness from a distance. He draws near to it. Whatever you are carrying that feels untouchable today, know that Jesus is not repulsed by it. He is reaching toward it.
- ✚ **Reflection:** What area of your life have you kept at a distance from God, assuming he would not want to touch it?
- ✚ **Practical Application:** Bring one specific hidden struggle before God in prayer today. Name it plainly and ask him to touch it.

– Luke 5:12-16 –



Day 2: Faith That Moves Without Bravado

Reading: Daniel 3:16-18

- 🔗 **Devotional:** The leper's request was theologically honest and remarkably humble. He did not demand healing. He did not claim it as his right. He simply said, in effect, I know you are able. I am asking if you are willing. This mirrors the posture of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who declared that God was able to deliver them from the furnace but refused to presume upon his will if he chose otherwise. True faith is not the absence of uncertainty about outcomes. It is a settled confidence in the character and power of God, regardless of what he decides. Faith without bravado is still faith. In fact, it may be the purest kind.
- 🔗 **Reflection:** Do you find it difficult to trust God when you are uncertain about his willingness to intervene in your situation?
- 🔗 **Practical Application:** Write out a prayer today that honestly expresses both your need and your surrender to God's sovereign will.

– Luke 5:12-16 –



Day 3: The Power and Necessity of Human Touch

Reading: Romans 12:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:11

- ✚ **Devotional:** Research confirms what Scripture has always assumed – human beings are not designed for isolation. Touch communicates safety, belonging, and love in ways that words alone cannot. The leper in Luke 5 had likely gone years without the warmth of another person's hand. When Jesus reached out, that single act of physical contact communicated something that the healing itself could not fully express – you are not forgotten, you are not repulsive, and you are worth touching. The body of Christ is called to be the continuing hands of Jesus in the world. Someone in your life may be living in quiet isolation, longing for the simple evidence that they are seen and valued.
- ✚ **Reflection:** Who in your life is experiencing a form of isolation, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual?
- ✚ **Practical Application:** Reach out to one person this week who may feel forgotten. A phone call, a handwritten note, or a shared meal can carry the weight of a divine touch.

– Luke 5:12-16 –



Day 4: The Testimony Born From Restoration

Reading: Psalm 107:1-2; Luke 5:14-15

- ✚ **Devotional:** Jesus instructed the healed leper to go quietly to the priests and complete the prescribed process of restoration outlined in Torah. The man's cleansing was meant to serve as a testimony – proof that something extraordinary was happening in Israel. Yet the man could not contain what had been done for him. He told everyone. While his disobedience to Jesus' instruction raises questions, his impulse points to a deeper truth. Genuine transformation is difficult to silence. When God has restored what was lost, redeemed what was ruined, and reconciled what was broken, the story demands to be told. Your testimony is not just for you. It is evidence for someone else who is still waiting to believe.
- ✚ **Reflection:** What has God restored in your life that you have not yet shared with anyone?
- ✚ **Practical Application:** Identify one person who needs to hear your story of God's faithfulness and take a step this week toward sharing it with them.

– Luke 5:12-16 –



Day 5: Solitude as Spiritual Discipline

Reading: Luke 5:16; Mark 1:35; Psalm 46:10

- ✚ **Devotional:** At the height of his popularity and the peak of his ministry demands, Jesus withdrew. He did not push through on his own strength. He did not allow the urgency of the crowds to crowd out his communion with the Father. Luke tells us this was not a one-time retreat but a regular, intentional practice. The rhythm Jesus modeled – Reigning in service, Renewing in rest, Relating in communion – is not a luxury for those with extra time. It is the architecture of a sustainable and spiritually alive life. If the Son of God required solitude with the Father to sustain his mission, there is no version of faithful discipleship that can afford to go without it.
- ✚ **Reflection:** When did you last intentionally withdraw from noise and demand to be with God?
- ✚ **Practical Application:** Block a specific time this week – even thirty minutes – for solitude and prayer with no agenda other than being present before God. Guard it as you would any other important appointment.

– Luke 5:12-16 –



Closing Prayer

Closing Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank you that no matter what we've done, no matter what shame and guilt we're dealing with, Jesus is not afraid or ashamed to touch our brokenness. That's good news for us, because we've done some things we're ashamed of. And Abba, as a result, we're willing to touch the brokenness of ours in Jesus' name, Amen."

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